

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1061
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 0281

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJ: PQ FIRST DOMESTIC SQUABBLE

REF: QUEBEC 0273, QUEBEC 0275

1. DEPUTY MINISTER OF TOUISM, RICHARD PAULIOT, YESTERDAY TOLD ME IN CONFIDENCE THAT LEVESQUE WILL DEFINITELY ACCEPT RESIGNATION OFFER MADE RECENTLY BY PEPPERY PQ PARLIAMENTARY LEADER, ROBERT BURNS. (REFTELS). ACCORDING TO POULIOT, WHO IS CONFIDANT OF SEVERAL MEMBERS OF CABINET, LEVESQUE HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY DISSATISFIED WITH BURNS' EMBARRASSINGLY ABRASIVE CONDUCT IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. THE PM ALSO ALLEGEDLY HAS BEEN SEEKING MEANS TO REDUCE BURNS' "RADICAL" INFLUENCE IN CABINET AND CAUCUS.

2. ACCORDING MY SOURCE, PRIME MINISTER IS NOW INVOLVED IN DELICATE PROCESS OF CHOOSING REPLACEMENT FOR BURNS. FOR REASONS NOT EASILY DISCERNABLE TO US, CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER, CAMILLE LAURIN, IS SAID TO BE UNDER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. ANOTHER LEADING CANDIDATE IS MINISTER OF TOURISM, YVES DUHAIME.

3. COMMENT: LEVESQUE'S DISPLEASURE WITH BURNS' BULL-HEADED
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AGRESSIVENESS AND HIS CAVALIER TREATMENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT, CLEMENT RICHARD, HAS BEEN EVIDENT FOR SOME MONTHS. MOREOVER, CLAUDE MORIN, IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION SOME MONTHS AGO, REFERRED SLIGHTINGLY TO BURNS AS "MOST RADICAL MEMBER OF CABINET." HOW BURNS WILL TAKE DEMOTION IS NOT YET EVIDENT. LIKE MOST EXCESSIVELY PROUD MEN, HE SEEMS MOST VULNERABLE TO ATTACK AFFECTING HIS "AMOUR-PROPRE." THUS, WHILE PUBLICLY ACCEPTING DEMOTION

,
HE WILL PROBABLY BE LOOKING FOR FUTURE MEANS OF EVENING SCORE WITH
LEVESQUE.
MCNAMARA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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TAGS: PINT, CA, (BURNS, ROBERT)
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